is an event which always attracts a number of spectators. 326
The blacksmiths also forge a few crude agricultural tools [331]
and do a certain amount of repair work. There is extensive
scavenging of iron, and the blacksmith's establishment con-
tains a huge number of odds and ends which might some day
find a customer. Hinges and nails, for example, are pur- [414] ●
chased by builders and householders. Tinsmiths exercise 326
considerable importance in domestic economy in the fabrica- 46
tion and, particularly, the repair of cooking utensils, and
their workshops in the bazar are daily sought by a large
number of persons, not only from the town, but from the
district at large. The poorly-made metal pots and pans
are always in need of repair, and the tinsmith, much more
so than many of his fellows, has an extremely brisk trade.
One important specialty is the repair of cracked or broken 323
porcelain dishes. Large platters, imported long ago from 415
abroad and used in serving food, are precious family heir-
looms and handed down from generation to generation. A
crack is repaired by drilling a series of tiny holes through
the dish on either side of the break and fastening them
together with metal clamps. One of the dearest possessions 415
of a housewife is her samovar for brewing tea, and those 326
of the wealthier families, of etched brass or pewter,
were brought in by trade from Russia or Iran many years
ago and inherited through the family. The tinsmiths
manufacture a bright, but poorly soldered, tea-urn of
sheet tin which is in great demand among the poorer
villagers. A villager carrying one of these home from 415